

News Release

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686
208/467 9278 Fax: 208/467 1019 <http://deerflat.fws.gov>

Date: 19 July 2010

Contact: Jennifer Brown-Scott, Jennifer_Brownscoff@fws.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge to Hold Open Houses about Management Plan

First open house July 28, 2010. Public comments accepted until September 10, 2010.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is kicking off a planning process to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) that will guide the management of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) for the next 15 years.

Established to provide a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife, Deer Flat NWR consists of two units. The Lake Lowell Unit includes Lake Lowell and surrounding lands southwest of Nampa. The Snake River Islands Unit includes over 100 islands along 113 river miles between the Canyon-Ada County line and Farewell Bend in Oregon.

To start the planning process, the Service will gather public input about the scope of issues that should be considered in the CCP. The CCP will include guidance for improving resource protection and management on the Refuge while providing compatible and appropriate recreational uses and support facilities. There are currently both wildlife-dependent and non-wildlife-dependent recreational uses at the Refuge. Wildlife-dependent recreational uses include environmental education and interpretation, fishing, hunting, wildlife photography, and wildlife observation. Non-wildlife-dependent uses at the Lake Lowell Unit of the Refuge include, but are not limited to, biking, dog-walking, motorized boating, use of personal watercraft, picnicking, and swimming.

In order to be allowed on refuges, non-wildlife-dependent uses must benefit the natural resources of the refuge or increase the public's awareness of those resources. Also, wildlife-dependent and non-wildlife-dependent uses must not interfere with the purpose for which the Refuge was created. The public is invited to provide input on how to provide recreational uses in a manner that protects wildlife, promotes wildlife conservation and reduces conflicts between user groups. More information about the CCP and planning process is available at <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/refugeplanning.html>.



The Service is providing several opportunities for public comment on issues, concerns and recommendations for future management of the Refuge, including two open houses where the public is invited to meet Refuge staff, learn about Deer Flat NWR and provide written comments.

The first open house is July 28 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The second open house will be an extended, two-day open house. The first day will be August 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the second day will be August 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All open houses will be held at the Refuge Visitor Center, 13751 Upper Embankment Road in Nampa, Idaho.

Public comments are being accepted through September 10, 2010. Comments may be submitted by:

Email: deerflat@fws.gov

Mail: Jennifer Brown-Scott, Refuge Manager
Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, ID 83686

Phone: (208) 467-9278

Fax: (208) 467-1019

Additional opportunities to provide comments and feedback to the Refuge will occur throughout the planning process and as draft documents are completed and made available for public review. Anyone who would like to receive updates on Deer Flat NWR's CCP is asked to call the Refuge office at (208) 467-9278 or email deerflat@fws.gov and request to be placed on our mailing list.

###

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

